

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 and 8-12, 15 and 18-19 (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An expression vector for expression of a gene in a mammalian host comprising a ~~region encoding~~ an isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a sequence of nucleotides as set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 3, which encode an HD-interacting polypeptide, wherein the HD-interacting polypeptide is an HIP-apoptosis modulating protein and wherein said protein polypeptide consists of a sequence of amino acids selected from the group consisting of ~~that has a sequence which includes the amino acid sequences given by SEQ ID Nos-SEQ ID NOs. 2, 4, 5, or and 7.~~

13. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 7 where the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein has a sequence as set forth in ~~which includes SEQ ID No. 4~~ SEQ ID NO.: 4.

14. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 7 where the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein has a sequence ~~which includes~~ as set forth in ~~SEQ ID No. 5~~ SEQ ID NO.: 5.

16. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 7.

17. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 16 that is a mammalian cell.

20. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising~~ consisting of the nucleotide sequence as set forth ~~n~~ in SEQ ID NO:3.

21. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20 encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

22. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20 encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

23. (New) A host cell transfected or transformed with an expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 21.

24. (New) A host cell transfected or transformed with an expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 22.

25. (New) An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20.